STATEMENT REGARDING COLLECTIONS MADE FOR THE POLICE CLUB.

PRESIDENT : Mr. Inspector-General, you wanted to make a personal statement ?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : Sir, while I was speaking on the Demand for Police Department, there was a reference to the drama staged in aid of labour. The honourable member Mr. Janardanan Nair denied the entire thing. Now I shall read from the proceedings what passed in this Assembly :

> " Now I can understand Mr. Janardanan Nair's attitude. Sir, it is a case of two foxes aiming at grapes. The Police fox aimed at the grapes and got them. Immediately after the police held the drama at Quilon, the labour people encouraged by Mr. Janardanan Nair and his friends, held a drama and it is very unfortunate that they failed to realise any money. So I can very well understand his chagrin,
>
> " Mr. Janardanan Nair : May I know when that drama was staged because I do not remember to have staged any drama in aid of the labour or any other association and to have collected any funds from the public ?
>
> " Rajyasevapravina Khan Bahadur G. S. Abdul Karim Sahib Suhrawardy : There have been collections, Sir. Even a good soul like Mr. K. G. Parameswaran Pillai was asked to help and like the good soul he is he helped them."

PRESIDENT : Mr. Janardanen Nair denies all knowledge of a drama : he denies all knowledge of his having been connected with any drama ; denies that labour organised any drama. That is the point, is it not ?

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR : Yes, Sir.

PRESIEDNT : Honourable members are aware of the proceedings. You may give your statement.

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY : That is the position, Sir. Now here I have got a printed notice in Malayalam, the translation of which runs like this :

> " Rajyasevanirata K. G. Parameswaran Pillai will inaugurate for the Trivandrum Labour Union Fund. Sangeetha Vidwan Vaikom Vasudevan Nair and parties " Rajabhakti ", a musical drama in the V. J. T. Hall at 9-30 p. m. on Sunday the 25th Idavam 1117".

Please mark the words " Labour Union Fund ". Then the proceedings of this was published in the *Malayala Rajyam* of the 9th June 1942. The following is the translation of the report of the proceedings :

> " It is stated that the Lobour Union President Mr. Janardanan Nair invited Mr. K G. Parameswaran Pillai to inaugurate the function and accordingly Rajyasevanirata started the performance with a short speech. He appreciated the interest evinced by labourers in histrionic art and emphasised the necessity of devoting their spare time for fine arts."

Look at this picture and that. Honourable members can decide for themselves.

One word more, Sir. While we realised Rs. 30,000, they realised only Rs. 300.

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MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: The reference the Inspector-General made was that the Quilon Labour Union attempted to hold a drama or held a drama.

PRESIDENT: There was no such reference.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: I may say that I had no part in the drama.

PRESIDENT: If the honourable member has any personal statement to make, he may do so.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: All that I wish to say is that because I came down to Trivandrum, I invited Mr. K. G. Parameswaran Pillai, but I did not collect any fund or take any part in the committee that organised that drama.

PRESIDENT: In other words, Mr. Janardanan Nair's name happened to be mentioned by chance.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Not exactly that. Simply because he happened to be the President of the function and was staying at Quilon, such a thing was brought about.

PRESIDENT: Am I to take it that you were not aware of subscriptions having been collected?

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Only on the day of the drama I was aware of that.

PRESIDENT: It is only natural.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: But I may submit—

PRESIDENT: Order, order. So, your name was mentioned for saving your face.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Because I happened to be the President of that function.

PRESIDENT: That is a matter for the House to decide.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: Sir, I may also submit that in inviting Mr. K. G. Parameswaran Pillai what really happened was—

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I may add in addition that the offer that I made to the honourable member the other day to give the name of any single person, either a merchant or a constable, has not been complied with and to this moment I have not got any such name.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I submit one word, Sir, in this connection. I have already got a statement written from those gentlemen to the effect that.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I stated the other day that before that evening I wanted the name. I also said that enquiry will be started that day itself. Up to this time the honourable member has not reported the name of any single person. So, I regard the conduct of the honourable member as open to the gravest possible comment.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: But, Sir, if I could have.....

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PRESIDENT: I wanted to conduct an enquiry and the honourable member knows that I am leaving this tomorrow.

MR. KANNANTHODATH JANARDANAN NAIR: May I submit.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I said that before lunch time the name should be given to me. I was to conduct an enquiry into the conduct of those persons and two days have elapsed. No names have been presented to me; to this moment I have not got the names. And, the honourable member knows that I cannot hereafter conduct an enquiry into that matter. Therefore, I leave it to the honourable House to decide on what has been the conduct of the honourable member in question.

I may add that I have authorised the Chief Secretary to receive the names. Even if I am going, the Chief Secretary will be perfectly right to receive the names at any time.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

> "This Assembly recommends to the Government that necessary steps be taken to prevent fragmentation of holdings in future."

Travancore is mainly an agricultural country and a large majority of its population consists of agriculturists. The staple food of the people of the State is rice, a large portion of which we used to import from outside—from Burma and Siam. But now when those sources are closed to us, we are beginning to look round for new sources and I am glad that Government have begun a vigorous drive for an intensive and extensive cultivation of paddy. It is in this connection and especially at such a time as this that the subject of my resolution becomes important. The progress in intensive farming is seriously hampered by various conditions and circumstances, among which the fragmentation of holdings and their pepper-pot distribution is the most important. By that the energies of the Agricultural Department in experimental work, propaganda, and introduction of better seeds and better fertilisers will be frustrated in a large measure.

There is no doubt, that the large increase in the fractionalisation of holdings is a recent phenomenon. In olden days population pressure was less heavy, while the cultivation unit was the joint family estate. Partition was then uncommon. But now things are changed. The laws of inheritance, the right to partition in most communities, the easy facilities for conveyance, and the increase of population have been chiefly instrumental in the indiscriminate fragmentation of holdings. Indebtedness of the small holder, forced sale and land hunger have also helped a great deal in that direction.

Travancore is a country of small holdings. Of the total number of holdings about 6 per cent. are less than 20 cents in extent, about 26 per cent. less than 60 cents, 38 per cent. less than 5 acres and

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